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Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

3.5(c)
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Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

National Intelligence Bulletin

March 29, 1976

CONTENTS

NR

[redacted]

ARGENTINA: Videla to be sworn in today as president 5

[redacted]

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Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

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ARGENTINA

General Jorge Videla will be sworn in as president this afternoon, culminating an extraordinarily smooth transition to military rule. The eight-man cabinet that will also be sworn in contains two officers from each of the three services and two civilians.

As anticipated, prominent industrialist and economist Jose Martinez de la Hoz will become minister of economy and is expected to announce severe austerity measures soon. Another civilian will take over the education portfolio. The Foreign Ministry will be in the hands of the military under Rear Admiral Cesar Guzzetti, who is relatively young and inexperienced in foreign affairs, suggesting that junta leaders intend to play a prominent role in foreign policy.

A tough army general and former federal police chief, Eduardo Harguindeguy, will head the key Interior Ministry. He will be charged with the overall campaign against left-wing guerrillas and rightist vigilante squads.

The guerrillas have not issued a public statement concerning the military take-over; only a few minor terrorist attacks have occurred since the coup. Guerrilla leaders probably are studying the military's security procedures and will hold off major actions until security precautions are relaxed.

Military authorities continue to issue decrees, most dealing with maintaining public order and getting the country back to work. One decree has banned strikes, work stoppages, and slowdowns.

Public reaction to the coup can best be characterized as one of relief. For the moment, at least, most Argentines appear willing to grant the new government a honeymoon period. A respected Buenos Aires daily has noted an atmosphere of "enormous expectation" for the material and moral rehabilitation of the country.

The Videla government's first test may not be long in coming. The Peronist labor movement, although badly fragmented and leaderless, will be difficult to steer toward further belt-tightening. [redacted] 3.5(c)

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3.5(c)

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433

Page Denied

Approved for Release: 2018/10/02 C02996433